

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /016 W  
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P R 301547Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
SECSTATE WASHDC 9386

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USIA FOR IEU, ICS; LENINGRAD FOR P&C; STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: BIDENTENNIAL SEMINARS: VOLSPKR HAROLD ISAACS

REF: (A) USIA 29001, (B) MOSCOW 11425

1. INTERESTED IN HAVING ISAACS DELIVER TALK ON AND DISCUSS INFORMALLY WITH SOVIETS GENERAL SUBJECT OF RACE AND ETHNICITY IN AMERICAN SOCIETY. WOULD PROPOSE HIM AS SPEAKER TO USA INSTITUTE, MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY'S AMERICAN STUDIES COUNCIL, INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' MOVEMENT IN MOSCOW, PLUS APPROPRIATE INSTITUTIONS IN LENINGRAD, KIEV. ALSO MAY WISH TO ARRANGE TO HAVE HIM DISCUSS SUBJECT INFORMALLY WITH SOVIET JOURNALISTS.

2. IN PAST THERE HAS NOT BEEN AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE OF VOLSPKRS AND/OR AMSPECS' SPEAKING APPEARANCES IN USSR. MEETINGS AT SOVIET INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN OEP ONLY TO STAFF OF RESPECTIVE HOST INSTITUTIONS AND ACCOMPANYING EMBOFFS. OUR GUESS IS THAT SOVIETS WILL WISH TO MAINTAIN THIS PRACTICE, AND AGENCY SHOULD THEREFORE MAKE CLEAR TO ISAACS DURING BRIEFING THAT SON-IN-LAW SHIPLER, MOSCOW NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT, PROBABLY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCOMPANY HIM TO MEETINGS AT UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTIONS, SHOULD HE WISH TO DO SO. ISAACS SHOULD ALSO UNDERSTAND

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THAT AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE OF HIS VISIT MAY MAKE HOST INSTITUTIONS

RELUCTANT TO COOPERATE WITH US IN FUTURE.

3. ALSO REQUEST ISAACS BE BRIEFED THOROUGHLY IN U.S. ON SENSITIVITY OF SOVIET NATIONALITIES QUESTION. ISAACS SHOULD LIMIT HIS FORMAL REMARKS AND DISCUSSION COMMENTS TO TREATMENT OF RACE AND ETHNICITY IN U.S. HE SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT PLAN TO SPEAK ON SOVIET NATIONALITIES. INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS IN SMALL GROUPS MAY PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE SUBJECT BUT REFERENCE TO MATTER BEFORE LARGER GROUPS ALSO MAY JEOPARDIZE OUR ABILITY TO PLACE VOLSPKRS, AMSPECS IN OTHER FIELDS.

4. WISH TO REMIND AGENCY THAT BRINGING OF VOLSPKRS, AMSPECS TO USSR ON TYPE OF VISA GRANTED TO PERSONAL GUESTS OF EMBASSY OFFICERS REQUIRES THAT WE PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO THEIR ACTIVITIES WHILE HERE. WE HAVE DURING THE COURSE OF PAST YEAR EXPANDED SPEAKER PROGRAM BY SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY DEVELOPING OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH SOVIET INSTITUTIONS. WHILE WE IN NO WAY WANT TO DICTATE TO VISITORS WHAT THEY MAY AND MAY NOT DO, WE WANT THEM TO BE FULLY AWARE OF POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIONS FOR LATER VISITS WE MAY WISH TO ARRANGE.

5. FOR STATE: IF ISACCS VISITS USSR AND ADDRESSES SUBJECTS OF RACE AND ETHNICITY, VISIT OF PROPOSED AMSPEC OF WALKER CONNOR, TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY, 1977, TO DISCUSS SAME GENERAL AREA WOULD NO LONGER BE NEEDED AND WE WOULD THEN PREFER THAT AMSPEC GRANT BE USED IN DIFFERENT FIELD.  
MATLOCK

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